

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action of May 11, 2004, are earnestly solicited.

Claims 1,2, 10, 16 and 19 have been amended to clarify applicants' invention. Claims 11 and 20 have been canceled, leaving claims 1-10 and 12-19 pending in the application.

Claims 2, 11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11 and 20 have been canceled. The above amendment to claim 11 is believed to moot the indefiniteness rejection thereof.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, 15-17, 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Shibata (U.S. Patent No. 5,700,049). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shibata teaches providing a horizontal gap D₁ between a stopper member secured to the vehicle frame and a gusset associated with the vehicle body. Shibata's purpose is to transmit a front impact on the vehicle frame to the body. Applicants, by contrast, in independent claims 1, 10 and 19 provide a vertical gap between the frame and the body to allow body deflection to be minimized by closing of the gap and resisting further localized deflection of the body area of concern; e.g., an anchored child carrier. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 12, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 5, 9, 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 9 depend indirectly from amended claim 1 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Claims 14 and 18 depend indirectly from amended claim 10 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 10.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 16 and 19 as amended herein, and Claims 3-9, 12-15 and 17-18, as originally submitted are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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